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~~said housing having an inner surface with the same curvature as the outer surface of said outer ring so that said outer ring can rotate freely and smoothly about any axis within said housing;~~

~~said housing having circular surface openings situated opposite each other and said inner ring of said coupler device having a circular hole which aligns with said surface openings as means for insertion of a locking pin device to securely engage said double-ring coupler device within said housing.~~

Kindly add the following new claims:

sb32 2. ~~(New) An improved trailer hitching apparatus comprising:~~

first and second walls in opposed, spaced apart relation;

means attached to said first and second walls for mounting said apparatus to a towing vehicle;

an outer, substantially annulus-shaped ring having inner walls defining an opening, said inner walls having a concave configuration, said outer ring being configured to be received between said opposed first and second walls;

an inner, substantially annulus-shaped ring, said inner ring having an opening and an outer convex surface, said inner ring being positioned within said opening of said outer ring, said outer convex surface of said inner ring having substantially the same curvature as said inner concave walls of said outer ring, and said outer ring somewhat overlapping said inner ring to hold them together operationally such that said outer ring can rotate freely on any axis about said inner ring, said inner and outer rings together forming a coupler device;

means attached to said outer ring for attaching said coupler device to a trailer; and

Claim 3
a locking pin operatively associated with said opposed first and second walls and configured to be received through said opening in said inner ring when said coupling device is disposed between said opposed first and second walls so as to couple said coupling device to said means for mounting said apparatus to a towing vehicle.]

Claim 3 cont'd
3. (New) The trailer hitching apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a housing, wherein said housing includes an opening configured to receive an end of said coupler device therethrough, and wherein said first and second walls comprise opposed walls of said housing.]

Claim 4
4. (New) The trailer hitching apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said locking pin extends along an axis, and wherein said housing comprises walls configured to guide said coupler device into a position such that said opening of said inner ring is aligned with said axis defined by said locking pin.

5. (New) The trailer hitching apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said housing comprises a curved inner surface.

Claim 6
6. (New) The trailer hitching apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said outer ring has an outer convex surface with the same general curvature as the curved inner surface of said housing such that said outer ring can rotate freely and smoothly about any axis within [said] spherical housing.

7. (New) The trailer hitching apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said housing is substantially hemispherical in shape, and wherein said opening is substantially circular in shape.

8. (New) The trailer hitching apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said housing has a substantially hemispherical inner surface, and wherein said outer ring has an outer convex surface with the same general curvature as the inner surface of said housing such that said outer ring can rotate freely and smoothly about any axis within said spherical housing.

9 (New) The trailer hitching apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said housing comprises an aperture therethrough through which an end of said locking pin is inserted, and wherein said housing comprises an engagement means situated opposite said aperture for engaging said end of said locking pin; whereby when said locking pin extends through said aperture, through said opening in said inner ring, and engages said engagement means, said locking pin couples said coupling device to said housing.

10. (New) The improved trailer hitching apparatus of Claim 3, further comprising a plurality of connected guide walls operatively associated with said housing and converging rearward about said opening.

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended, and new Claims 2-10 have been added. Claims 1-10 remain in the application for reissue. Examination of the application for reissue of the patent in view of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.